

ahead of him, Walt hadn't thought much about it yet. Gordon encouraged him to start planning right away because he said he had seen too many of his friends, who had retired without a plan, wasting time in their retirement. Gordon never looked at retirement as a scary chapter in life—just one that needed to be planned for like everything else.

Start planning for your retirement now, no matter where you are in life.

BE AN INSTRUMENT FOR GOD.

Ed Fergusson, who worked with Gordon for over a decade at the Northern California Conference, preached the sermon at Gordon's memorial service. He shared a story of a time that God used Gordon to answer Ed's prayer.

Both men lived more than an hour away from the office and

would often commute together. On a morning they hadn't planned to ride together, Ed discovered his car had been stolen. After a quick moment of panic, Ed asked God to help him get to the office. Just as he finished his prayer, Gordon drove up unexpectedly. "Need a ride to work?" he asked.

The police tracked down Ed's car, which the thieves had damaged. While his vehicle was in the repair shop, he drove a rental car, but he discovered that he would have to return it before his own car was ready. "I'm going on a trip; want to borrow my car?" Gordon asked. Ed gratefully accepted, and the very day Gordon returned from his trip, Ed's car was fixed.

Listen carefully for God's voice, and He will use you to answer someone's prayers.

PUT YOUR FAITH IN GOD.

Toward the end of his life, Gordon spent time in the hospital fighting an infection. At first—still the optimistic—he was planning his next vacation. However, he finally realized he was facing a future that he couldn't control. "Ever the planner, he struggled with this," said Ed. "But he expressed his faith in a God who is faithful."

No matter what you are facing, always put your trust in God. Those who knew Gordon believe this life lesson is his biggest legacy.

As Ed concluded his sermon, he said: "May Gordon Botting's life in hope continue to give us hope." Gordon's example and his writings will continue to be an inspiration for his family, friends, and readers.

We look forward to seeing him when Jesus comes—soon!

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To read more about Gordon Botting's life, visit nccsda.com/gordonbotting.

The STEWPOT

A POTPOURRI OF PRACTICAL IDEAS to help you become a better steward

AUGUST 2019 • VOLUME 24, ISSUE 8

LESSONS FROM GORDON

BY STEPHANIE LEAL & JULIE LORENZ

In 1993, Gordon E. Botting became the Pacific Union Conference stewardship director. Two years later, he started this monthly publication, *The Stewpot*—a combination of the words "stewardship" and "potpourri" (meaning "mixture" or "collection"). Gordon wrote most of the articles himself, focusing on stewardship in all areas of a Christian's life: money, time, talents, health, marriage, and more. Over the past 24 years, *The Stewpot's* readership has grown, and it is now distributed worldwide in four languages—English, French, Portuguese, and Spanish.

We're very sad to report that Gordon passed away on July 11, 2019, after a 10-month battle with cancer. His death, at the age of 72, was a tragic loss for his family and the many people whose lives he touched. Gordon's memorial service, held on August 3, included reflections from friends and coworkers who shared what they had learned from him. One of the common themes of the service was Gordon's desire to leave a legacy of wisdom, passing on the life lessons he had learned.

Longtime readers of *The Stewpot* know that Gordon enjoyed including lists of succinct pieces of advice in the articles he wrote. As a special tribute to him, this month's issue includes a list of some of the ideas that Gordon not only wrote about, but lived. We're also including some of the stories and comments that were shared during his memorial service.

STEWARDSHIP is a total lifestyle. It involves our health, time, talents, environment, relationships, spirituality, and finances.



Gordon E. Botting, DrPH
April 6, 1947 - July 11, 2019

"He was always there for you."

Darwin Forster

MAKE CONCRETE PLANS TO ACHIEVE YOUR DREAMS.

One of Gordon's biggest joys in life was travel, and he made it a priority. Arny Meert, a decades-long friend, spoke about the many trips he and his family took with the Botting family over the years. "Gordon planned to travel until he was 95 years old," Arny said.

Gordon didn't wait until "someday" to travel. At the time of his death, he had been fully retired for only a few months, and yet he had already traveled the world. As he lived out his dreams, he practiced what he preached as a financial educator—always planning well and never spending more than he had. "Don't go into debt for vacations," his friend Walt Groff recalled Gordon saying.

Don't put off your dream for "someday." Make plans and do it soon.

TREAT OTHERS WELL.

Years ago, Jim Lorenz, then a young pastor, walked by Gordon at a seminar. He said "hello" and fully expected Gordon to return the greeting and keep walking. After all, Gordon was a director in the conference and the union, and Jim was a rookie pastor. However, Gordon invited Jim and a friend to eat lunch with him, and he fully engaged with the young pastors during the meal. "He took the time to treat people well," Jim said. "He was a true Christian gentleman and friend."

Be kind to everyone, no matter their station in life.

BE A FRIEND.

Recently, Jim and Carolyn Oliver worked with Gordon at the Northern California Conference, but before that, Gordon was their pastor. Decades ago, when the Olivers made the big step to start their own business, Gordon offered to stop by and pray with them. His visit lasted for over an hour as he shared financial wisdom that helped their business achieve a successful first year. The Olivers have never forgotten Gordon's thoughtfulness.

Another coworker and friend, Darwin Forster, recalled the many times he called Gordon to ask



questions about his work as a health screener. "He was always there for you," said Darwin.

When your friends need support, be there.

SPEND TIME WITH FAMILY.

When Gordon was asked to submit a short biography for his speaking appointments or publications, he described himself as a "family man." He thoroughly enjoyed spending time with his wife, Margaret; his children; and grandchildren. He especially delighted in taking vacations with them. Friends remember the joy he took in sharing details about his family, including some stories that were featured in *The Stewpot* through the years. His family has many wonderful memories of their time with him that they will cherish forever.



Botting is survived by his wife, Margaret; son Tim and daughter-in-law Dusty; daughter Angela Graf and son-in-law Ricardo; three granddaughters, Savannah, Ivy, and Addie; and two grandsons, Grady and Lucas.

Make your family a priority by spending time together and creating memories.

MENTOR THE NEXT GENERATION.

A number of years ago, Walt Groff was in his 20s when Gordon asked him what his plans were for retirement. With a full career



Gordon enjoyed many trips with his wife Margaret.

